

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A purified polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 7 or a sequence possessing at least 90% identity thereto.

Claims 2-9 (cancelled).

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method to identify compounds that inhibit phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity, said method comprising the steps of contacting a test compound with the polypeptide of claim 1, in the presence of appropriate assay components and under conditions effective to detect inhibition of the transfer of a phosphorous molecule from ATP to phosphomevalonate.

Claims 11-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (currently amended): A diagnostic kit for detecting the presence of *Candida albicans* comprising: one or more antibodies capable of selectively binding to the polypeptide of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide exhibits at least one of the same antigenic determinants as the protein of SEQ ID NO:7, and instructions for use.

Claim 16 (new) The purified polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity of claim 1 wherein the polypeptide is capable of isolation from *Candida albicans*.

Claim 17 (new) A purified polypeptide encoded by a nucleic acid molecule that hybridizes under stringent conditions to the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 6 and which nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity.

Claim 18 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 17 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity, wherein the polypeptide is a naturally occurring allelic variant of SEQ ID NO: 7 capable of isolation from a species of *Candida albicans*.

Claim 19 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising an amino acid sequence possessing at least 95% identity to SEQ ID No. 7

Claim 20 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising an amino acid sequence possessing at least 96% identity to SEQ ID No. 7.

Claim 21 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising an amino acid sequence possessing at least 97% identity to SEQ ID No. 7.

Claim 22 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising an amino acid sequence possessing at least 98% identity to SEQ ID No. 7.

Claim 23 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising an amino acid sequence possessing at least 99% identity to SEQ ID No. 7.

Claim 24 (new): The purified polypeptide of claim 1 having phosphomevalonate kinase (PMK) activity comprising the amino acid sequence depicted in SEQ ID No. 7.